

CityLink

Volume 3, Winter 2008

CITY OF
JOHNSCREEK

JOHNS CREEK
GEORGIA

Mayor's Letter

Reflections on Year One: Much Accomplished, More to Come

Our city officially turned one year old December 1. I hope you were among the thousands of residents who turned out for our wonderful Founders Day celebration. Coming during this season of joy and gratitude, the anniversary affords us an opportunity to reflect and appreciate the opportunity to serve our citizens.



Michael Bodker

What we've done in this first year is truly remarkable. Here is what I see as the City's most significant accomplishments.

City's very creation is most remarkable achievement.

The grassroots movement to independence has given citizens greater control over their destiny – and their tax dollars.

Delivering on promise of transparent government.

From the beginning, we have strived to educate and empower citizens with access to information about your government and give you a voice in how it is run

Establishing the foundation for our own police and fire departments

Our citizens have made it clear that public safety must be top priority. The Johns Creek Police Department will be on the streets by this coming April and our Fire Department in August, adding a new level of protection and further enhancing our sense of community.

Creation of 1st full-year budget; holding line on millage.

While our charter allows Johns Creek a maximum property tax millage rate of 4.731, we chose to set the rate at 4.614, the same rate you were being charged under Fulton County.

Taking 1st steps toward addressing road, traffic issues.

Our challenge today, tomorrow, and for the foreseeable future is addressing the inadequate, poorly maintained infrastructure we inherited. We did make some strides in year one, such as improving traffic light timing at intersections and finishing work on State Bridge Road.

Establishing own identity, enhancing pride, unity.

Starting with our incorporation and inauguration and continuing through the recent Founders Day events, we have tried to create events that bring the community together and the unique identity of our great city.

While these are proud accomplishments, your City Council's focus is on where we're going. In the coming year, The Citizens Advisory Committee will craft our first Comprehensive Plan including a transportation master plan and green space plan. We will continue to chip away at infrastructure needs while understanding that real progress will only come through a responsible, financially sound bond program that will ensure funds for the improvements and programs our citizens desire. We will follow through on our commitment to begin the Greenway project and look for creative ways to enhance our parks, and much more.

Thank you for your support, your involvement and your understanding as we take these first tentative steps of our infancy. On behalf of my fellow Council members and the staff here at City Hall, I hope you and your family were able to savor the peace and joy of the holiday season. Best wishes for a prosperous 2008.

Michael Bodker
Mayor, City of Johns Creek

Johns Creek City Council



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The goal of CityLink is to inform residents of City issues and make them more aware of city services and programs. This newsletter is only worthwhile if it provides information that is useful and meaningful to you. Please send your comments and suggestions to:

CityLink

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31 New Billboards Coming to City?

In an effort to prevent 31 new billboards from being erected in Johns Creek, the City recently moved to intervene in a lawsuit pitting outdoor advertising firms against Fulton County.

Fulton County Commissioners approved a settlement agreement with the firms that would permit construction of 74 billboards, all primarily in North Fulton. The alternative was to pay damages estimated in the range of \$6-\$8 million.

Mayor Mike Bodker says the county has no right to approve permits within the city's jurisdiction and accused commissioners who supported the settlement agreement of "abandoning" citizens and selling away the community's tranquility.



The case began in 2005, prior to incorporation, when several outdoor advertising companies challenged the Fulton County sign ordinance. The Georgia Supreme Court ultimately found the ordinance to be unconstitutional.

Bodker said the aspect of the case that should most outrage Johns Creek citizens is that Fulton County could have avoided the entire issue if commissioners had made the necessary changes to their sign ordinance that would render it constitutional.

"In approving this settlement, Fulton is trying to pass the burden and cost for defending these cases, as well as any potential liability, to the city when it was their mistakes that created the situation."

Alpharetta PD veteran becomes City's 1st Police Chief



Ed Densmore became the City's first Chief of Police November 26.

Densmore, 42, formerly Alpharetta's Police Chief, brings 15 years of experience in law enforcement to his new position of building and leading Johns Creek's force, set to launch April 2008.

Densmore, a Hamburg, Mich. native, began his career with the Decatur Police Department after earning a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University.

Densmore's selection was the result of a 5-month search involving 132 candidates from across the Southeast.

Founder's Day 2007 Photos



FOUNDERS DAY

JOHNS CREEK, GEORGIA ★ 2007



Town Hall meeting series continues in new year

Mayor Mike Bodker will continue his Town Hall meeting series and encourages all residents to participate. The schedule for 2008 is below. Meeting topics will be announced closer to the date of each meeting.

Please check the City Web site, www.JohnsCreekGA.gov, for updates.

All Town Hall meetings begin at 7 pm in the City Council Chambers, 3rd floor of City Hall, 12000 Findley Road.

Mon. Jan 28 Wed. Aug. 13
Mon. March 3 Tuesday Sept. 2
Wed. May 7 Monday Nov. 3



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Council meeting schedule revised for '08

The Johns Creek City Council meeting has been revised for 2008. The Council will now hold regular meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month starting at 7 pm. A work session will precede each regular meeting starting at 5 pm. An additional work session is scheduled for the second Monday of the month at 7 pm, but may be cancelled as appropriate. To check the complete 2008 meeting schedule, go to the Web at <http://johnscreekga.gov/gov/index.html> and click on "Printable version of the complete 2008 City Council Meeting/Work Session schedule."

1st Comp Plan Public Hearing Jan. 14.

On January 14 at 7 pm, Johns Creek City Council will hold the first of four public hearings on the City's first Comprehensive Plan (now in development). The purpose of this hearing is to:

- Brief the community on potential issues and opportunities identified by the Community Assessment,
- Get your input on the proposed Community Participation Program,
- Announce when these plan components will be sent to the state Department of Community Affairs
- Get Council's approval to send them.

Citizens will have the opportunity to comment. Visit the city Web site at www.JohnsCreekGA.gov to review supporting documents for the public hearing. Check back after Jan. 10 for any updates.



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*"Sweat
IS THE COLOGNE
of accomplishment."*

-HEYWOOD HALE BROWN
CBS NEWSCASTER

